



Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/1991/128
25 July 1991

Original: ENGLISH

Second regular session of 1991
Geneva, 3-26 July 1991
Agenda item 8 (1)

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: EFFECTIVE
MOBILIZATION AND INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

Report of the First (Economic) Committee

1. The First (Economic) Committee considered the question of the effective mobilization and integration of women in development (agenda item 8 (1)) at its 10th, 16th and 18th meetings, on 17, 23 and 24 July 1991. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation on operational activities of the United Nations system (A/46/206-E/1991/93 and Add.2);

(b) Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its thirty-fifth session (E/1991/28); 1/

(c) Note by the Secretary-General on the effective mobilization and integration of women in development (E/1991/99).

1/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1991, Supplement No. 8 (E/1991/28).

2. At its 10th meeting, on 17 July, the Committee held a general discussion on the item and heard statements by the representatives of Austria, the Netherlands (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Community), Togo, Finland (on behalf of the Nordic countries), Canada, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Turkey, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Bahamas and Chile and the observer for Australia. Statements were also made by the representatives of the International Labour Organisation and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization. The representative of the United Nations Development Programme made a statement.

Summit on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women

3. At the 16th meeting, on 23 July, the representative of Turkey introduced a draft resolution (E/1991/C.1/L.12) entitled "Summit on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women", on behalf of Australia, 2/ Austria, Belgium 2/ Chile, Colombia, 2/ Denmark, 2/ Egypt 2/ France, Italy, Kenya, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Nigeria, 2/ Norway, 2/ Senegal, 2/ Somalia, Spain, Thailand and Turkey, subsequently joined by the Bahamas, Germany, Greece, 2/ New Zealand and Uganda.

4. At the 18th meeting, on 24 July, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Ahmed Amaziane (Morocco), informed the Committee of the results of the informal consultations held on the draft resolution and amended operative paragraph 2 thereof by deleting the word "Member" before the word "States".

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution, as orally amended (see para. 7 below).

Note by the Secretary-General on the effective mobilization and integration of women in development

6. At its 18th meeting, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that it take note of the note by the Secretary-General on the effective mobilization and integration of women in development (E/1991/99) (see para. 8 below).

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE

7. The First (Economic) Committee recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

2/ In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

Summit on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1989/106 of 27 July 1989 on the effective mobilization and integration of women in development,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 45/129 of 14 December 1990 on the Implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, 3/ in which the Assembly reaffirmed, inter alia, its determination to encourage the full participation of women in economic, social, cultural, civil and political affairs,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 43/101 of 8 December 1988, in which, inter alia, the Assembly endorsed the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women and, in particular, the importance given therein to women gaining access to investment finance, supporting women's income by removing legal and institutional restrictions, promoting women's savings and providing training in and assistance with financial management, savings and investment,

Recognizing that the mobilization of the potential of all groups of the population of developing countries, in particular the large number of the rural poor, is essential to eradicate poverty and eliminate hunger,

Convinced that rural women's critical roles in food production, income generation, household maintenance and family welfare could be strengthened if institutions, States and communities took adequate measures to reduce the legal, financial and other constraints impeding women's effective access to productive and labour-saving resources and to support and enhance women's productive capacities and economic activities,

Bearing in mind the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 4/ in particular article 14 thereof, in which it is stipulated, inter alia, that States Parties shall take into account the particular problems faced by rural women and the significant roles which rural women play in the economic survival of their families,

Welcoming the initiative taken by a group of First Ladies to convene a Summit on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women in Brussels on 25 February 1992 under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Fabiola of Belgium,

Noting with interest the technical support being provided for the Summit process by the Regional Consultations in Asia, Africa, the Near East and Latin America organized by the International Fund for Agricultural Development,

3/ Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

4/ General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.

1. Requests the International Fund for Agricultural Development to continue to provide all necessary input and other support for the Summit in cooperation and coordination with other appropriate United Nations organizations;

2. Urges all States, appropriate organs, organizations, and bodies of the United Nations system and relevant non-governmental organizations to participate in and support the Summit on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women and support its objective for developing a strategy for the economic advancement of rural women in the 1990s;

3. Expresses the hope that the Summit will give an impetus to the achievement of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women and thus help rural women to assume their role in the development process and share fully in its benefits, and thereby provide an important input to the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Peace and Development, to be held in 1995.

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8. The First (Economic) Committee also recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Note by the Secretary-General on the effective mobilization and
integration of women in development

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the note by the Secretary-General on the effective mobilization and integration of women in development. 5/

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